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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 DRC-01 /060 W
---------- 027726
R 171720Z OCT 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8236
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T USNATO 5761

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE: WARNING TIME

REF: USNATO 5714

IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS REPORTED REFTEL, MISSION HAS CIRCULATED TO DTC MEMBERS AND IS TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTES ON WARNING TIME WHICH DR. LEGERE USED AT OCTOBER 15 DRC MEETING.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. WARNING CAN BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS:
A. OBSERVE - GATHER INTELLIGENCE.
B. EVALUATE OBSERVATIONS.
C. RESPOND AS NECESSARY.

2. US STRONGLY SUPPORTS MC-161'S CONCLUSIONS ON WARNING TIME:
A. A WP ATTACK WOULD BE PRECEDED BY BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY INDICATIONS; POLITICAL INDICATIONS WOULD ALERT INTELLIGENCE
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TO BE ON LOOKOUT FOR MILITARY INDICATIONS.
B. MILITARY PREPARATIONS, EVEN FOR A WP ATTACK USING ONLY FORCES-IN-PLACE WOULD INVOLVE AT LEAST SOME WP ACTIVITIES NEVER DONE BEFORE AT THE SAME TIME SUCH AS:

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- REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES CLOSE TO NATO
- MOBILIZATION IN NSWP COUNTRIES
- LARGE SCALE AIR AND NAVAL MOVEMENTS

C. INTELLIGENCE IS CONFIDENT THAT WP ATTACK COULD NOT BE LAUNCHED WITHOUT 48 HOURS OF WARNING TIME BEING AVAILABLE.

D. THE AMOUNT OF WARNING TIME DEPENDS ON SCENARIOS ABOUT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATIONS THAT LEAD TO WAR; BUT A WP DECISION TO ATTACK NATO WOULD INVOLVE SOME COMPROMISE BETWEEN ATTACKING WITH MAXIMUM SURPRISE AND ATTACKING AT MAXIMUM STRENGTH.

E. IF WP CHOSE EMPHASIZE SURPRISE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT, FORCES NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK WOULD BE ALERTED, DUE TO THE HAZARDS OF QUICK ESCALATION.

F. IF WP CHOSE TO EMPHASIZE STRENGTH TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT, PREPARATIONS WOULD TAKE THREE WEEKS, DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF WHICH (CERTAINLY WITHIN A WEEK) INTELLIGENCE WOULD REPORT THAT WP REINFORCEMENT AGAINST NATO IS PROBABLY UNDERWAY.

G. IN CASE BETWEEN THE LIMITING CASES OF MC-161, INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES THAT THE SHORTEST TIME WP WOULD REQUIRE TO BRING FORWARD REINFORCEMENTS DIVISIONS IS TEN DAYS, GIVING NATO WARNING TIME OF THREE TO EIGHT DAYS.

3. THESE CONCLUSIONS BOIL DOWN TO A FEW SIMPLE BUT IMPORTANT POINTS:

A. WARNING STARTS WHEN THE PACT STARTS.

B. WARNING IS CUMULATIVE.

C. THERE IS ALWAYS SOME WARNING.

4. USE OF WARNING TIME: ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE AND DECISION-MAKING ON COUNTER-MOVES GO ON CONCURRENTLY. POLITICAL CONSULTATION AND DECISION-MAKING DO NOT START ONLY WHEN INTELLIGENCE HAS GIVEN "CLEAR EVIDENCE OF IMPENDING ATTACK."

5. NATO IS NOT TIED TO THE ALERT SYSTEM TO MAKE COUNTERMOVES. NATIONS MOVE, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY.

6. SUMMARY:

A. MC-161 QUITE USEFULLY STATES THE ABILITY OF THE INTELLIGENCE

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COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE TIMELY WARNING OF WP PREPARATIONS FOR ATTACK.

B. US FEELS CONFIDENT THAT, GIVEN PROPER USE OF WARNING TIME, WARNING IN ALL CASES WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO ENABLE ALLIES TO MOVE, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, ON THE APPROPRIATE SCALE.

END TEXT.

MCAULIFFE.

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